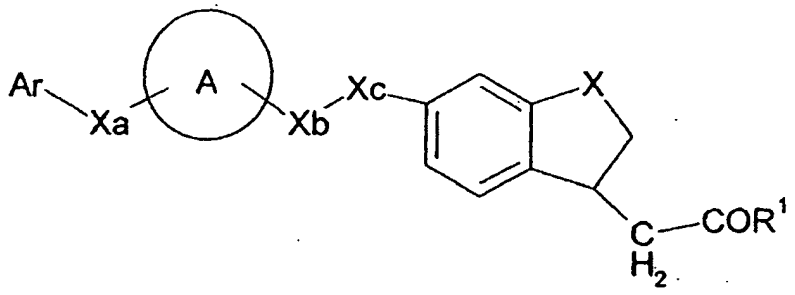
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula:



wherein Ar is cyclopropyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, benzo[b]thienyl, indolyl or indanyl, each of which optionally is substituted by 1 to 5 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of

(1) halogen atom;

(2) hydroxy group;

(3) amino group;

(4) nitro group;

(5) cyano group,

(6) optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group;

(7) optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl group;

(8) optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl group;

(9) C_{6-14} aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(10) C_{6-14} aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally

halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(11) C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(12) heterocyclic group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(13) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group;

(14) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group;

(15) mono- or di-C_{7-16} aralkyl-amino group;

(16) N-C_{1-6} alkyl-N-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group;

(17) N-C_{1-6} alkyl-N-C_{7-16} aralkyl-amino group;

(18) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group;

(19) optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

(20) C_{1-6} alkylthio group;

(21) C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group;

(22) C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group;

(23) optionally esterified carboxyl group;

(24) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group;

(25) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl-carbonyl group;

(26) C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl group;

(27) carbamoyl group;

(28) thiocarbamoyl group;

(29) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group;

(30) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group;

(31) mono- or di-5- to 7-membered heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group;

(32) sulfamoyl group;

(33) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group; and

(34) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

ring A is benzene, ~~which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) at substitutable position(s) selected from~~

~~(1) halogen atom;~~

~~(2) hydroxy group;~~

~~(3) amino group;~~

~~(4) nitro group;~~

~~(5) cyano group;~~

~~(6) optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group;~~

~~(7) optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl group;~~

~~(8) optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl group;~~

~~(9) C_{6-14} aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-~~

~~carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;~~

~~(10) C_{6-14} aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;~~

~~(11) C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;~~

~~(12) heterocyclic group (preferably furyl, pyridyl, thienyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl) optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;~~

~~(13) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group;~~

~~(14) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group;~~

~~(15) mono- or di-C_{7-16} aralkyl-amino group;~~

~~(16) N-C_{1-6} alkyl-N-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group;~~

~~(17) N-C_{1-6} alkyl-N-C_{7-16} aralkyl-amino group;~~

~~(18) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group;~~

~~(19) optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group;~~

~~(20) C_{1-6} alkylthio group;~~

~~(21) C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group;~~

~~(22) C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group;~~

~~(23) optionally esterified carboxyl group;~~

~~(24) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group;~~

~~(25) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl-carbonyl group;~~

~~(26) C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl group;~~

~~(27) carbamoyl group;~~

~~(28) thiocarbamoyl group;~~

~~(29) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group;~~

~~(30) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group;~~

~~(31) mono- or di-5- to 7-membered heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group;~~

~~(32) sulfamoyl group;~~

~~(33) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group;~~

~~(34) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;~~

Xa is a bond ~~or a spacer having a main chain of 1 to 5 atom(s)~~,

Xb is $(CH_2)_n$ wherein n is 1 or 2,

Xc is O,

X = -O-, $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, and

R^1 is a hydroxy group or C_{1-10} alkoxy group,

~~provided that~~

~~[6-(4-biphenylyl)methoxy-2-tetralin]acetic acid;~~

~~methyl [6-(4-biphenylyl)methoxy-2-tetralin]acetate;~~

~~[7-(4-biphenylyl)methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-oxo-3-quinoline]acetic acid; and~~

~~methyl [7-(4-biphenylyl)methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-oxo-3-quinoline]acetate are excluded,~~

or a salt thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the cyclic group represented by Ar is ~~an aromatic hydrocarbon~~ a phenyl group which optionally is substituted by said 1 to 5 substituent(s).

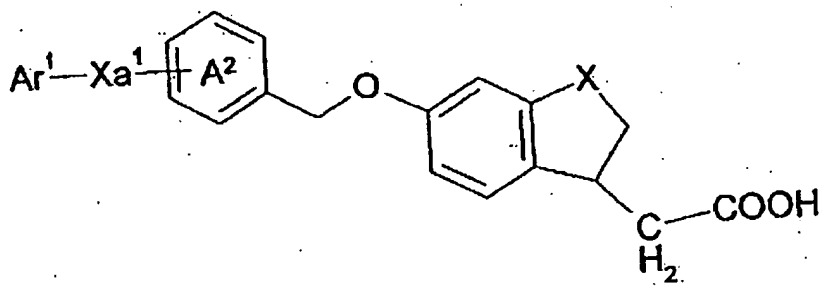
4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Xb is $-CH_2-$.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is a hydroxy group.

13. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, which is represented by the formula:

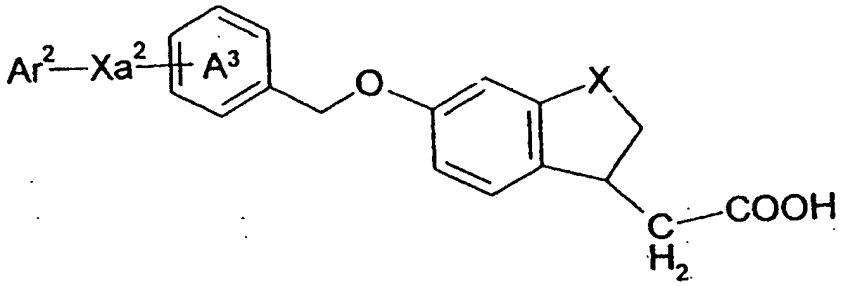


wherein Ar^1 is phenyl group or indanyl group, each of which optionally is substituted by said 1 to 5 substituent(s),

Xa^1 is a bond ~~or a spacer having a main chain of 1 to 5 atom(s)~~, and

ring A^2 is benzene ~~which optionally is substituted by said 1 to 5 substituent(s)~~.

14. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, which is represented by the formula:



wherein Ar^2 is thiazolyl group which optionally is substituted by said 1 to 5 substituent(s),
Xa^2 is a bond ~~or a spacer having a main chain of 1 to 5 atom(s)~~, and
ring A^3 is benzene ~~which optionally is substituted by said 1 to 5 substituent(s)~~.

15. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1 with a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

16-23. (Cancelled)